



MEDIA ADVISORY: South Carolina Department of Education Takes Over Management of Online Learning Initiative

January 6, 2021 -- Last summer, Act 142 of the General Assembly allocated \$50 million of the Coronavirus Relief Fund for South Carolina included in the CARES Act to the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff for broadband initiatives related to COVID-19. Of that \$50 million, \$20 million was allocated to create an Online Learning Initiative.

An initial \$12 million was spent securing mobile hotspots and wired internet service for qualifying student households in school districts and institutions of higher learning statewide. On Jan. 1, the remaining \$8 million was transferred to the South Carolina Department of Education, which will manage the program's service through June 2021.

For any questions or concerns about the project's transition or individual household plans, please contact Jeff Henry at the SCDE at (803) 734-4044 or rhenry@ed.sc.gov.

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